



# Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development! If you are new to the study we would like to invite you and your child to participate. We are in the seventh year of data collection and excited about the coming year of the study. The past six years have been a tremendous success for us. We were able to reach a diverse set of communities across the United States and are looking forward to that same success in this round of the study. We can't thank our youth and parents enough for the contribution they are making to the field of positive youth development.

Great news has come our way! The National 4-H Council has extended our grant, allowing us funding for additional years! This way we will be able to track changes in Positive Youth Development while your child is in high school. This is very unique opportunity in which we can actually understand the youth perspective on positive development from the preteen years through much of adolescence.

We are now writing to you for help. It is extremely important to this study that we are able to survey your child this year and we will be at his or her 4- H group in a few weeks. We ask that you talk to your child about the 4-H Study and get them excited about the contribution they are making to this important field of research. With your child's participation, along with the many other students we are surveying, we hope to be able to inform policy makers on positive changes that can be made to improve your child's social, physical and educational life and surroundings.

The questions in the survey will be asking your child about feelings about themselves, about their future plans, current activities, physical and emotional development and about their goals.

In addition to your child's contribution, we are asking that parents complete the enclosed Parent/Guardian Questionnaire. This questionnaire helps us identify issues that are important to your child's development, but may be hard for your child to

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answer. We ask that you complete this Parent/Guardian Questionnaire and return it to us in the self-addressed, stamped envelope that we have provided.

If you are willing to have your child participate this year, please sign the enclosed consent form and ask you child to return it to his or her 4-H Leader.

If you have any questions about the Youth or Parent Questionnaire, about the aims of our study or anything at all, please don't hesitate to contact Maria McNamara at ([maria.mcnamara@tufts.edu](mailto:maria.mcnamara@tufts.edu)) 617-627-4624, or Marie Pelletier at ([marie.pelletier@tufts.edu](mailto:marie.pelletier@tufts.edu)) 617-627-6729.

We look forward to hearing from you and greatly appreciate your participation.

With best regards -



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